

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified)
(REV 11-2000)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

29342/36539A

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

10/031463INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/US00/20981INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
01 August 2000PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
03 August 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

BETA-CARBOLINE DRUG PRODUCTS

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

ANDERSON, Neil R.; HARTAUER, Kerry J.; KRAL, Martha A.; STEPHENSON, Gregory A.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☒ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).
11. ☒ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).

Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:


13. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
20. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
21. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
22. ☒ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
23. ☒ Other items or information:

Return receipt postcard

U.S. APPLICANT <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-left: 100px;">10/031463</div>	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/US00/20981	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 29342/36539A																																																					
24. The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) : <input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1040.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$890.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$740.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$710.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</div>		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>																																																					
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).		\$890.00																																																					
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a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of <u>\$1,226.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>13-2855</u> A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.		NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status. SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> NAPOLI, James J. Customer No. 04743 Marshall, Gerstein & Borun 6300 Sears Tower 233 South Wacker Drive Chicago, Illinois 60606 United States of America </div>																																																					
James J. Napoli SIGNATURE		James J. Napoli NAME																																																					
32,361 REGISTRATION NUMBER		17 January 2002 DATE																																																					

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	)	"EXPRESS MAIL," mailing label
NEIL R. ANDERSON ET AL.	)	No. EK657825681US
)	
U.S. National Phase of	)	Date of Deposit:
International Application No.	)	January 17, 2002
PCT/US00/20981 filed under 35)	
U.S.C. §371	)	I hereby certify that this
	)	paper (or fee) is being
International Filing Date:	)	deposited with the United
1 August 2000	)	States Postal Service "EXPRESS
	)	MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE"
Filed: Herewith	)	service under 37 CFR §1.10 on
	)	the date indicated above and is
For: β-CARBOLINE DRUG PRODUCTS	)	addressed to:
	)	Commissioner of Patents,
Group Art Unit: Unknown	)	Washington, D.C. 20231.
)	
Examiner: Unknown)	
)	
Attorney Docket No. 29342/36539A	)	Richard Zimmermann

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING
NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Box PCT
Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application
filed under 35 U.S.C. §371 as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title, please delete the CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION in its entirety and insert therefor:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is the U.S. national phase application of International Application No. PCT/US00/20981, filed on August 1, 2000, which claims the benefit of provisional patent application Serial No. 60/147,048, filed August 3, 1999.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 17-19, without prejudice.

Add new claims 20-22 as follows:

--20. A method of treating sexual dysfunction in a patient in need thereof, which comprises administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a free form of a compound having a formula

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the sexual dysfunction is male erectile dysfunction.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 17-19 have been cancelled by this amendment. Claims 20-22 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-16 and 20-22 are at issue.

The amendments are described in more detail below. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121, a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the present amendment is attached hereto following the signature page of this amendment. The first page of the marked-up version of the changes is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

This preliminary amendment adds no new matter. The specification has been amended to insert a new cross reference to related applications. The claims have been amended to conform the claims to U.S. practice. Support for new claims 20-22 can be found in originally filed claims 7-9 and 18.

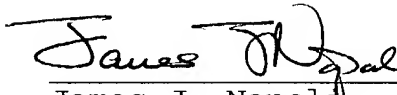
It is submitted that this amendment should be entered and that the claims are in proper form for examination. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, the examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

By



James J. Napoli
(Registration No. 32,361)
Attorneys for Applicants
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 474-6300

Chicago, Illinois
January 17, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
(U.S. National Stage of PCT/US00/11130
filed January 17, 2002)

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The following cross-reference to related application has been inserted into the specification:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

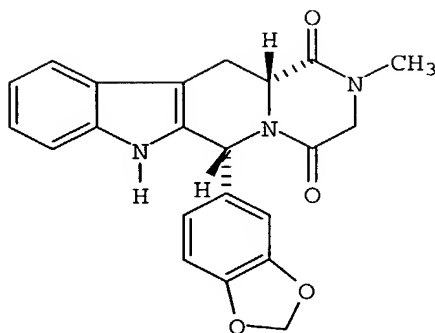
This is the U.S. national phase application of International Application No. PCT/US00/20981, filed on April 26, 2000, which claims the benefit of provisional patent application Serial No. 60/147,048, filed August 3, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 17-19 have been cancelled without prejudice.

New claims 20-22 have been added to the application.

20. A method of treating sexual dysfunction in a patient in need thereof, which comprises administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a free form of a compound having a formula



which exhibits a C_{\max} of about 180 to about 280 micrograms/liter and an AUC (0-24) of about 2280 to about 3560 micrograms hour/liter, measured using a 10 milligram dose of the compound.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the sexual dysfunction is male erectile dysfunction.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the sexual dysfunction is female sexual arousal disorder.

10-031463
17 JAN 2002 β -CARBOLINE DRUG PRODUCTSCROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application claims the benefit of
provisional patent application Serial No.
60/147,048, filed August 3, 1999.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10

 The present invention relates to the
fields of pharmaceutical and organic chemistry, and
to a β -carboline compound which is useful for the
treatment of various medical indications where
15 inhibition of type 5 cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase
(PDE5) is desired. More particularly the present
invention provides a free drug form of β -carboline
particles in a size range allowing for uniform
formulation of stable pharmaceutical compositions,
20 especially compositions providing desired bioavail-
ability properties heretofore not provided in the
art.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

25

 The biochemical, physiological, and clin-
ical effects of cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate
specific phosphodiesterase (cGMP-specific PDE) in-
hibitors suggest their utility in a variety of
30 disease states in which modulation of smooth muscle,
renal, hemostatic, inflammatory, and/or endocrine
function is desired. Type 5 cGMP-specific phospho-
diesterase (PDE5) is the major cGMP hydrolyzing

enzyme in vascular smooth muscle, and its expression in penile corpus cavernosum has been reported (Taher et al., *J. Urol.*, 149:285A (1993)). Thus, PDE5 is an attractive target in the treatment of sexual dysfunction (Murray, *DN&P* 6(3):150-156 (1993)).

Daugan U.S. Patent No. 5,859,006 discloses a class of β -carboline compounds, and pharmaceutical compositions containing the β -carbolines, which are useful in the treatment of conditions wherein inhibition of PDE5 is desired. PCT publication WO 97/03675 discloses use of this class of β -carboline compounds in the treatment of sexual dysfunction.

The poor solubility of many β -carboline compounds useful as PDE5 inhibitors prompted the development of coprecipitate preparations, as disclosed in PCT publication WO 96/38131 and Butler U.S. Patent No. 5,985,326. Briefly, coprecipitates of a β -carboline with polymeric hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, for example, were prepared, milled, mixed with excipients, and compressed into tablets for oral administration. Studies revealed, however, that difficulties arose in generating precisely reproducible lots of coprecipitate product, which makes use of coprecipitates less than ideal in pharmaceutical formulations.

Additionally, clinical studies involving administration of coprecipitate tablets preliminarily revealed that maximum blood concentration of the β -carboline compound is achieved in 3 to 4 hours, with the average time for onset of therapeutic effect not yet precisely determined. In the treatment of sexual dysfunction, such as male erectile

- 3 -

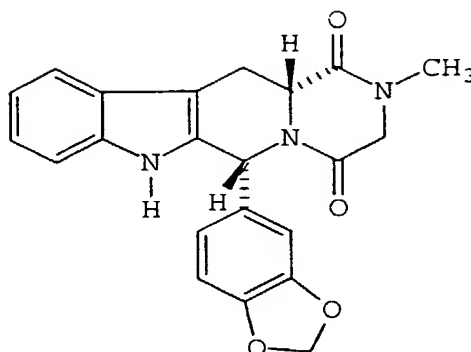
dysfunction or female sexual arousal disorder, however, a more rapid achievement of maximum blood concentration, along with a greater prospect for rapid onset of therapeutic effect, frequently is sought by individuals desiring more immediate and/or less prolonged effects. Accordingly, a need in the art continues to exist for orally administrable β -carboline compounds and β -carboline-containing pharmaceutical compositions having an ability to provide a therapeutic effect within a desirable, or at least acceptable, time frame.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention provides particulate
preparations of a free drug form of a β -carboline
compound having specific and defined particle size
characteristics. The defined particle size permits
a uniform formulation of stable pharmaceutical
20 compositions. In particular, the present invention
provides compositions that exhibit a rapid achieve-
ment of maximum blood concentration of PDE5 inhibi-
tor and/or a rapid onset of a therapeutic PDE5
inhibitory effect.

25 The present invention provides a compound
having the formula (I)

- 4 -



(I)

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein the compound is a free drug in particulate form, and wherein at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than about 40 microns, and preferably less than 30 microns. Highly preferred particulate forms of the β -carboline compound (I) have at least 90% of the particles less than 25 microns in size. Most preferred forms of the free compound (I) are those wherein 90% of the particles are less than 10 microns in size.

The present invention provides, therefore, a free form of a β -carboline compound, and compositions containing the β -carboline compound, which can be used in an effective therapy for conditions wherein inhibition of PDE5 provides a benefit. The free form of β -carboline compound (I) has a particle size such that the onset of beneficial effects of PDE5 inhibition are exhibited in a relatively short time after oral administration.

The present invention further relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising the particulate compound (I) and one or more pharmaceutically

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acceptable carriers, diluents, or excipients. The invention further provides the use of compound (I) and pharmaceutical compositions for treatment of sexual dysfunction, e.g., male erectile dysfunction and female sexual arousal disorder.

Alternatively stated, the present invention provides for the use of the above-described particulate forms of compound (I) for the manufacture of medicaments for the treatment of sexual dysfunction. Specific conditions that can be treated by the compound and compositions of the present invention include, but are not limited to, male erectile dysfunction and female sexual dysfunction, for example, female arousal disorder, also known as female sexual arousal disorder.

Accordingly, one aspect of the present invention is to provide a free drug particulate form of a compound (I), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, comprising particles of the compound wherein at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than about 40 microns.

Another aspect of the present invention is to provide a pharmaceutical composition comprising particles of the free drug particulate form of compound (I) having a d_{90} less than 40, and one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers, diluents, or excipients, and a method of manufacturing the composition.

Yet another aspect of the present invention is to provide a method of treating sexual dysfunction in patients in need thereof comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a composition

Another aspect of the present invention is to provide a pharmaceutical composition comprising:
(a) a free drug form of compound (I), and
pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates

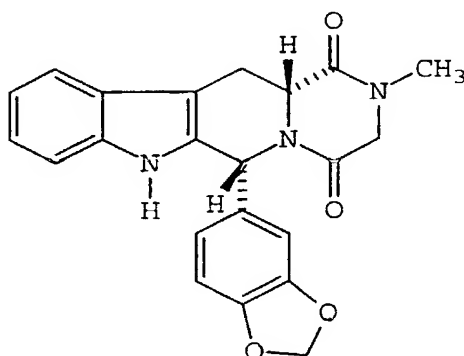
The nomenclature describing the particle size of compound (I) is commonly referred to, and is herein, as the "d90." For example, a d90 of 40 (or

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d90=40) means that at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than 40 microns.

As noted, the present invention provides a compound of structural formula (I), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, characterized in that the compound is a free drug in particulate form, wherein at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than about 40 microns.

It has been found that by processing (6R-trans)-6-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2,3,6,7,12,12a-hexahydro-2-methylpyrazino[1',2':1,6]pyrido[3,4-b]indole-1,4-dione, alternatively named (6R,12aR)-2,3,6,7,12,12a-hexahydro-2-methyl-6-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)pyrazino[2',1':6.1]pyrido[3,4-b]indole-1,4-dione, as disclosed in Daugan U.S. Patent No. 5,859,006, and represented by structural formula (I):



(I)

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to bring the particle size within a particular narrow range, manufacturing capability is enhanced, and pharmaceutical compositions can be prepared that exhibit an improved bioavailability of the active ingredient, i.e., compound (I).

The present invention encompasses particles of free compound (I) wherein at least 90% of the particles of free drug have a particle size of less than about 40 microns (i.e., $d_{90}=40$), and preferably less than 30 microns. More preferably, at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than 25 microns, still more preferably less than 15 microns, and to achieve the full advantage of the present invention, d_{90} is less than 10 microns. Particles having a d_{90} in the nanometer range (e.g., about 200 nm or less, or about 50 nm or less) also are contemplated. However, nanometer sized particles of compound (I) are difficult to handle and to formulate, and tend to aggregate. Therefore, a preferred d_{90} range for the particles of free compound (I) is about 1 to about 40 microns.

Preferably, the free drug is crystalline. However, amorphous and partially amorphous forms of compound (I) also are contemplated, and are included within the present invention.

It is understood by those familiar with comminution process techniques that the limit set on the size of 90% or more of the particles, using normal milling techniques, is a feature to further distinguish the particulate compounds of the invention from particles exhibiting a broader size

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distribution. Because of the variation in size encountered in all matter reduced in size by a comminution process, expressing differences in particle size in the manner described herein is readily accepted by those skilled in the art.

The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising said particulate compound (I) and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents, or carriers. The excipient, diluent, or carrier can be a solid component of the composition or a liquid component. Accordingly, pharmaceutical compositions containing particles of free compound (I) can be a solid composition, or can be a suspension of free compound (I) particles in a liquid excipient, diluent, or carrier.

The compound of the structural formula (I) can be made according to established procedures, such as those detailed in U.S. Patent No. 5,859,006, incorporated herein by reference. The preparation of the compound of structural formula (I) is specifically provided in U.S. Patent No. 5,859,006.

Methods of determining the size of particles are well known in the art. For example, the general method of U.S. Patent No. 4,605,517, incorporated herein by reference, could be employed. The following is a description of one nonlimiting method.

In preparing the particulate compound of the present invention, a compound of structural formula (I), in its raw state, first is characterized for size using an instrument adapted to measure equivalent spherical volume diameter, e.g., a Horiba

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allocated an "equivalent spherical diameter." The values found from characterizing a large number of "unknown" particles can be plotted as cumulative frequency vs. diameter, or in other methods weight vs. diameter, usually adopting percentage undersize values for cumulative frequency or weight. This provides a characteristic curve representing size distribution of the sample, i.e., cumulative percentage undersize distribution curve. Values can be read directly from the curve, or, alternatively, the measurements are plotted on log-probability paper to give a straight line, and the values can be read therefrom.

The d90 equivalent spherical volume diameter thus found is a statistical representation of the 90% point on a cumulative frequency plot. As indicated, the d90 equivalent sphere volume diameter of the particles of the milled compound of formula (I) are evaluated using a Horiba LA910 Laser Scattering Particle Size Distribution Analyzer or other such equipment recognized by those skilled in the art. Using such instrument values for a suspension of the particles of unknown size are obtained, and the instrument is monitored using a control sample having particles within the size range expected based on statistical analysis of the control sample.

The particle size of compound (I) prior to formulation into a pharmaceutical composition can be measured, for example, as follows. The laser scattering particle size distribution analysis is effected on a small sample of the reduced material, which is suspended in approximately 180 ml of

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components, or at least compound (I) is separated from the composition. Persons skilled in the art are aware of separation techniques that maintain the particle size of compound (I) during separation of compound (I) from the composition. For example, water-soluble constituents of the composition can be dissolved in water, leaving the highly water insoluble particles of compound (I) without altering the particle size of compound (I) particles.

10 The undissolved particles then can be examined under a microscope. The crystalline compound (I) can be visually differentiated from amorphous composition ingredients. The particle size of compound (I) is determined by visual inspection and by comparison to standardized particles of a known size. To ensure that the particle size of compound (I) particles is being determined, an infrared microprobe can be used to assay the particles and confirm their identity as compound (I).

20 Any pharmaceutically acceptable excipients can be used to formulate tablets. The tablets typically contain about 1 to about 20 mg of compound (I). Thus, for example, the particulate compound (I) can be mixed with generally recognized as safe pharmaceutical excipients, including liquid diluents, solid diluents (preferably water-soluble diluents), wetting agents, binders, disintegrants, and lubricants. See, e.g., *Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients 2nd Edition*, Amer. Pharm. Assoc. (1994). Preferred solid excipients include lactose, hydroxypropylcellulose, sodium lauryl sulfate, microcrystalline cellulose, talc, colloidal

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silicon dioxide, starch, magnesium stearate, stearic acid, and croscarmellose sodium. Liquid excipients include, for example, propylene glycol, glycerin, and ethanol. The pharmaceutical compositions are prepared by standard pharmaceutical manufacturing techniques, as described in *Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 18th Ed. (1990), Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA. Such techniques include, for example, wet granulation followed by drying, milling and compression into tablets with or without film coating; dry granulation followed by milling, compression into tablets with or without film coating; dry blending followed by compression into tablets, with or with film coating; molded tablets; sachets; suspensions; wet granulation, dried and filled into gelatin capsules; dry blend filled into gelatin capsules; or suspension filled into gelatin capsules. Generally, solid compositions have identifying marks that are debossed or imprinted on the surface. The total active ingredients in such pharmaceutical compositions comprises from 0.1% to 99.9%, preferably about 1 to 10% by weight of the composition. Preferably, the relative weight percent of excipients is as follows:

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	Quantity (% by weight)
Compound (I)	1 to 6
Lactose (diluent)	50 to 75
5 Hydroxypropylcellulose (binder/diluent)	1 to 5
Croscarmellose Sodium (disintegrant)	3 to 10
Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (wetting agent)	0 to 5
10 Microcrystalline Cellulose (diluent/disintegrant)	5 to 50
Magnesium Stearate (lubricant)	0.25 to 2.0

15

The specific dose of compound (I) administered according to this invention is, of course, determined by the particular circumstances surrounding the case including, for example, the route of administration, the state of being of the patient, and the pathological condition being treated. A typical daily dose contains a nontoxic dosage level from about 1 to about 20 mg/day of compound (I). Preferred daily doses generally are about 1 to about 20 mg/day, particularly 5 mg, 10 mg, and 20 mg tablets, administered as needed.

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The compositions of this invention can be administered by a variety of routes suitable for particulate dosage forms and are preferably administered orally. These compounds preferably are formulated as pharmaceutical compositions prior to administration. The selection of dose is decided by the attending physician.

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A compound (I)/hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate coprecipitate was manufactured generally by the method set forth in Butler U.S. Patent No. 5,985,326. After preparation of
5 coprecipitate, the coprecipitate was milled to provide particles having a relatively large particle size and a relatively wide particle size distribution, i.e., d50=200 microns. The coprecipitate there was subjected to a controlled
10 dissolution at a pH that ordinarily would not release compound (I) from the polymeric coprecipitate component. Applicants found that the coprecipitate contained a portion of the free drug form of compound (I) not embedded in the coprecipitate
15 polymer. In clinical studies (see Example 2), applicants further discovered that the blood levels of compound (I) within thirty minutes of administration was attributable to the free drug present in the coprecipitate compositions.

20 These results are surprising in view of Butler U.S. Patent No, 5,985,326 which is directed to a method of preparing a solid dispersion of compound (I) as coprecipitate. The disclosed process and coprecipitate of Butler U.S. Patent No.
25 5,985,326 is directed to providing a solid dispersion of a poorly water-soluble drug, which has an enhanced bioavailability compared to free particles of the poorly water-soluble drug. Butler U.S. Patent No. 5,985,326 therefore is attempting to
30 avoid the free form of the drug. Butler U.S. Patent No. 5,985,326 generally discloses milling of the coprecipitate, but fails to disclose the size of the coprecipitate particles after milling, and

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especially fails to disclose either the presence of the free drug form of compound (I) or, if present, a particle size of the free drug form of compound (I).

Based on these observations, it was concluded that a bimodal delivery of compound (I) could be achieved with a rapid delivery of the free drug followed by a slower delivery of the drug upon the pH sensitive release from the polymeric coprecipitate particles. These observations, in turn, gave rise to the possibility that rapid drug delivery could be effected by compositions incorporating compound (I) entirely in free drug form, provided that suitable stability could be achieved and that the particle size of the drug is controlled in a well-defined range for manufacture of the composition. Accordingly, compound (I) in the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention preferably is comprised entirely of free drug in particulate form, but alternatively the composition can contain a combination of free drug in particulate form and an embedded drug form to provide a bimodal drug delivery. Preferably, the free drug constitutes greater than 75% free drug (most preferably, greater than 90% free drug) of compound (I) in such compositions.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the free drug form of compound (I), and pharmaceutically-acceptable excipients, diluents, and carriers, are present in a pharmaceutical composition that exhibits a C_{max} (i.e., the maximum observed plasma concentration of compound (I)) of about 180 to about 280 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (micrograms/liter), or an AUC (0-24) (i.e., the area under the plasma

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concentration curve from zero to twenty-four hours) of about 2280 to about 3560 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h}/\text{L}$ (microgram·hour/liter), measured using a 10 mg dose of the compound. In a preferred embodiment, the composition exhibits a C_{max} of about 180 to about 280 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ and an AUC of about 2280 to about 3650 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h}/\text{L}$, measured using a 10 mg dose of the compound. In this embodiment, the composition can be a solid, e.g., a tablet or powder, by using solid diluents, carriers, and/or excipients, or a suspension, e.g., encapsulated in a soft gel, or a solution by using liquid carriers, diluents, and/or carriers.

The C_{max} and AUC (0-24) were determined by analyzing for compound (I) in plasma using a validated LC/MS/MS method, with a lower limit of quantitation of 0.5 ng/mL. The analytes and an internal standard i.e., the [^{13}C][$^2\text{H}_3$] isotope of compound (I), were extracted from the plasma by solid phase extraction with 3 mL Empore SD C2 cartridges using 150 μL of 90:10 methanol:water. The analytes were separated using high performance liquid chromatography with a Penomenex Luna phenyl-hexyl (4.6 mm x 100 mm, 5 μ) column with a water:acetonitrile (10:90) mobile phase at 1.0 mL/minute. Detection was performed using a Perkin Elmer Sciex API III Plus tandem mass spectrometer using atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) in positive ion mode.

It should be understood that C_{max} and AUC (0-24) in plasma is dose dependent. For example, a composition containing a 20 mg dosage of compound (I) will exhibit a C_{max} and AUC (0-24) about twice that of a composition containing a 10 mg dosage.

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Similarly, a composition containing a 5 mg dosage of compound (I) will exhibit a C_{\max} and AUC (0-24) of about one-half that of a composition containing a 10 mg dosage.

5 Accordingly, the present invention encompasses, for example, compositions containing a 20 mg dosage of compound (I) exhibiting a C_{\max} of about 360 to about 560 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and/or an AUC (0-24) of about 4560 to about 7120 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h/L}$; and a composition
10 containing a 5 mg dosage of compound (I) exhibiting a C_{\max} of about 90 to about 140 and/or an AUC (0-24) of about 1140 to about 1780 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h/L}$. Persons skilled in the art are aware of techniques in which the C_{\max} and AUC (0-24) of compositions containing a dosage
15 of compound (I) different from 10 mg can be compared or standardized to the C_{\max} and AUC (0-24) of a composition containing a 10 mg dose of compound (I).

 In another embodiment, a composition containing compound (I), either as the free drug
20 alone or as the free drug admixed with a coprecipitate of compound (I), and pharmaceutically-acceptable excipients, diluents, and carriers, exhibits a C_{\max} about 180 to about 280 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and an AUC (0-24) of about 2280 to about 3650 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h/L}$. In
25 this embodiment, the composition can be a solid or a suspension.

 Yet another embodiment of the present invention is a pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically-effective amount of particles of
30 compound (I) and pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers, diluents, and excipients, wherein at least 90% of the particles of compound (I) have a particle size of less than about 10 microns, and

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bioequivalent compositions thereof. The term
 "bioequivalent compositions" is defined herein as a
 composition having a C_{max} of about 180 to about 280
 $\mu\text{g/L}$, and an AUC (0-24) of about 2280 to about 3560
 5 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{h/L}$, measured using a 10 mg dose of particles of
 compound (I) having a $d_{90}=10$ and a human test
 subject.

C_{max} and AUC (0-24) be determined by
 methods well-known to person skilled in the art
 10 using humans, primates, dogs, rabbits, or rodents
 (e.g., rats, mice, guinea pigs, and hamsters), for
 example, as test subjects for bioequivalence.
 Preferred test animals are humans and dogs.

The present invention will be more readily
 15 understood upon consideration of the following
 illustrative examples wherein: Example 1 relates to
in vitro solubility characteristics of the free drug
 form of compound (I) of varying particle size;
 Examples 2 and 3 relate to *in vivo* tests of pharma-
 20 ceutical compositions incorporating a particulate
 form according to the invention in comparison to
 compositions incorporating a coprecipitate and in
 comparison to compound (I) of a relatively large
 particle size; and Examples 4 and 5 relate to
 25 pharmaceutical compositions employing particulate
 free drug according to the invention in differing
 dosage strengths.

EXAMPLE 1

30

In vitro dissolution tests were performed
 using compound (I) which had been processed by
 milling from its raw state particulate form ($d_{90}=75$ -

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200 microns) into particulate preparations having
d90 (microns) values as follows: Lot 1, d90=4; Lot
2, d90=22; Lot 3, d90=55; Lot 4, d90=65; Lot 5,
d90=73; and Lot 6, d90=116. Alternative milling
5 technologies were employed to develop the various
lots. For example, Lot 1 was made using a 12 inch
pancake style jet mill fed at a rate of 28-30
kg/hour with sufficient grind pressure to produce
the d90=4 material. Lot 2 was prepared in an Alpine
10 VPZ-160 universal mill equipped with pin discs (stud
plates) and run at approximately 10,000 rpm.

Lots were evaluated in vitro by accurately
weighing approximately 10 mg of bulk drug into a
test tube, adding 1 mL of purified water, and soni-
15 cating for up to 2 minutes to ensure the powder was
wetted. The drug slurry was subsequently transfer-
red to a dissolution apparatus vessel containing
1000 mL of aqueous 0.5% sodium lauryl sulfate at
37°C. The test tube was rinsed with multiple ali-
20 quots of warmed dissolution medium and added back
into the dissolution vessel. The paddle speed was
50 rpm and samples were taken at 5, 10, 20, and 30
minutes and subsequently analyzed by HPLC. The
results are illustrated in Figure 1 and demonstrate
25 improved *in vitro* dissolution occurs with smaller
particle sizes of compound (I).

EXAMPLE 2

30 The improvement in bioavailability and
reproducibility of pharmaceutical compositions made
available by the present invention is demonstrated
in vivo in humans. The following Table 1 demon-

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strates the pharmaceutical compositions prepared as in Examples 4 and 5 with particulate free drug having a d90 of 8.4 microns compared to composition incorporating the coprecipitate of compound (I) with hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate (coprecipitate). In each instance, the tableted composition was designed to deliver a 10 mg dose of compound (I).

Table 1 In vivo evaluation		
Pharmaceutical Composition	No. of Patients	T _{max} (hrs)
Free Drug of Compound (I)	18	2.0
Coprecipitate of Compound (I)	18	3.5

The composition incorporating a particulate free drug form having a d90 of 8.4 demonstrated significantly improved T_{max} over a composition containing the coprecipitate (T_{max} is a measure of the time to achieve peak blood levels of a drug, and is indicative of improved onset of action). The particulate free drug formulation correspondingly provided a more rapid rate of absorption of compound (I) into plasma, providing a geometric mean plasma level at 30 minutes of 51 ng/ml (nanograms per milliliter) as compared to 29 ng/ml for the coprecipitate formulation.

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EXAMPLE 3

5 A study was conducted to determine the bioequivalence of tablets containing compound (I) in different particle sizes. The tablets contained compound (I) in a particle size of $d_{90}=8.4\mu$ (micron), $d_{90}=20\mu$, or $d_{90}=52\mu$.

10 The study was an open-label, randomized, three-period crossover study conducted on twenty-four (24) healthy male subjects aged 18 to 65 years old, divided into two groups of twelve. A single 10 mg oral dose was administered with 180 mL of water in each of three treatment periods, and the
15 pharmacokinetics of tablets containing compound (I) in different particle sizes were compared.

After dosing, the subjects underwent pharmacokinetic blood sampling. There was an interval of at least 10 days between dosing in each
20 treatment period to eliminate any residual compound (I) from the previous treatment period. The post-study assessment was conducted between 7 and 14 days after the final dosing.

Compound (I) was absorbed relatively
25 quickly following oral dosing from the $d_{90}=52$, 30, and 8.4μ particle size formulations. However, the rate and extent of absorption of compound (I) increased with decreasing particle size. A comparison of C_{max} and AUC (0-24) data showed that the differ-
30 ence in absorption between particle size formulations was most apparent over the first 24 hours after dosing. As used herein, C_{max} is defined as the maximum observed plasma concentration of compound

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(I), and AUC (0-24) is defined as the area under the plasma concentration time curve from zero to twenty-four hours. Both C_{max} and AUC (0-24) are well-known and understood variables to persons skilled in the art.

With respect to C_{max} , the $d90=52\mu$ and $d90=20\mu$ formulations were not bioequivalent to the $d90=8.4\mu$ formulation because the 90% confidence interval (CI) was outside of the 0.8 to 1.25 equivalence limits. In particular, C_{max} was 36% and 23% lower for the 52μ and 20μ formulations, respectively, compared to the 8.4μ formulation. The 52μ formulation also was not equivalent to the 8.4μ formulation with respect to AUC (0-24), which was 23% lower than the 8.4μ formulation. The 20μ and 8.4μ formulations were bioequivalent with respect to AUC (0-24). The 8.4μ , 20μ , and 52μ formulations were bioequivalent with respect to AUC, i.e., the area under the plasma concentration time curve from time zero to infinity.

The study showed that the rate of absorption of compound (I), based on C_{max} and t_{max} (i.e., time to attain maximum observed drug-plasma concentration), was slower for the 52μ formulations in relation to the 8.4μ formulation. As stated above, C_{max} was not equivalent for the 52μ and 20μ formulations compared to the 8.4μ formulation. Median t_{max} occurred one hour later for the 52μ formulation, but was similar to the 20μ and 8.4μ formulations.

The following table summarizes various pharmacokinetic parameters of compound (I) following

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oral administration of a single 10 mg dose of the d90 52 μ , 20 μ , and 8.4 μ particle size formulations.

	d90=52 μ	d90=20 μ	d90=8.4 μ
C _{max} (μ g/L)	142	189	224
t _{max} (h) ¹⁾	3.00	2.00	2.00
AUC (0-24) ²⁾	2201	2667	2849

¹⁾ median data.

²⁾ in micrograms·hour/liter.

This study showed that reducing the particle size of compound (I) in accordance with the present invention has an impact on the *in vivo* rate of absorption of compound (I) from a solid dosage form, and, hence, on the bioavailability of compound (I). For example, from the statistical analysis, t_{max} for the 52 μ formulation occurred significantly (i.e., 1 hour) later than for the 8.4 μ formulation. There was no significant difference in t_{max} between the 20 μ and 8.4 μ formulations. Accordingly, onset of a therapeutic benefit attributed to compound (I) after administration is significantly faster for the 8.4 μ and 20 μ formulations compared to the 52 μ formulation.

In addition to dissolution and *in vivo* absorption, another important aspect of the physical properties of particulate β -carboline preparations according to the present invention is the impact on the various unit operations of the drug product manufacturing process. While the particle size specification ensures consistent delivery of the

Purified Water, USP was used in the manufacture of the tablets. The water was removed during processing and minimal levels remained in the finished tablets.

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can be lightly dusted with talc to improve tablet handling characteristics.

The tablets are filled into plastic containers (30 tablets/container) and accompanied by package insert describing the safety and efficacy of the formulation.

EXAMPLE 5

By analogous procedures, the following formula was used to prepare the finished dosage form of a tablet providing 5.0 mg and 20 mg of compound (I).

Ingredient	Quantity (mg)	Quantity (mg)
<u>Granulation</u>		
Compound (I) (Lot 1, d90 of 4)	5.00	20.00
Lactose Monohydrate	109.66	210.19
Lactose Monohydrate (Spray Dried)	17.50	35.00
Hydroxypropylcellulose	2.80	5.60
Croscarmellose Sodium	6.30	12.60
Hydroxypropylcellulose (EF)	1.22	2.45
Sodium Lauryl Sulfate	0.49	0.98
<u>Outside Powders</u>		
Microcrystalline Cellulose (Granular-102)	26.25	52.50
Croscarmellose Sodium	4.90	9.80
Magnesium Stearate (Vegetable)	0.88	0.88
Total	175 mg	350 mg

The principles, preferred embodiments, and modes of operation of the present invention have

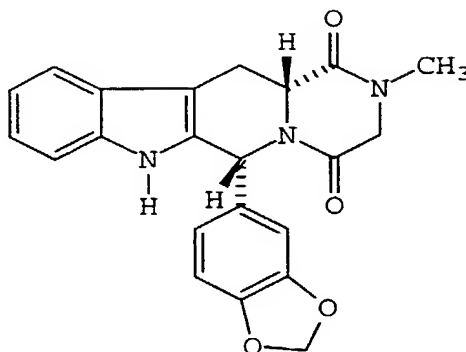
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been described in the foregoing specification. The invention that is intended to be protected herein, however, is not construed to be limited to the particular forms disclosed, because they are to be
5 regarded as illustrative rather than restrictive. Variations and changes may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A free drug particulate form of a compound having a formula



and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, comprising particles of the compound wherein at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than about 40 microns.

2. The free drug particulate form of claim 1 wherein at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than about 25 microns.

3. The free drug particulate form of claim 1 wherein at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than about 15 microns.

4. The free drug particulate form of claim 1 wherein at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than about 10 microns.

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5. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the free drug particulate form of claim 1 and one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers, diluents, or excipients.

6. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 5 wherein the free drug is entirely in particulate form.

7. A method of treating sexual dysfunction in a patient in need thereof, which comprises administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising the free drug particulate form of claim 1 and one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers, diluents, or excipients.

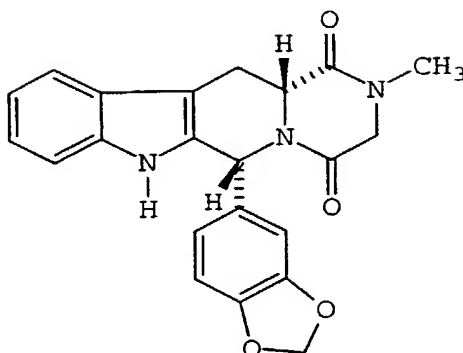
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the sexual dysfunction is male erectile dysfunction.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the sexual dysfunction is female sexual arousal disorder.

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10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a free drug form of a compound having the formula



and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts and solvates thereof, and

(b) one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers, diluents, or excipients,

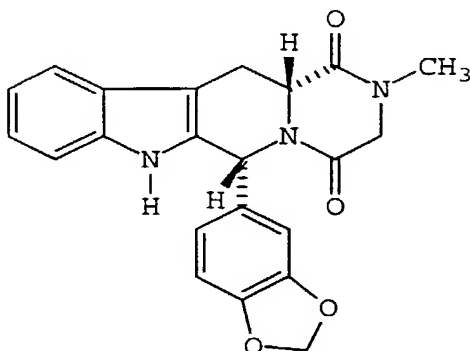
wherein the composition exhibits a C_{max} of about 180 to about 280 micrograms/liter or an AUC (0-24) of about 2280 to about 3560 microgram · hour/liter, measured using a 10 milligram dose of the compound.

11. The composition of claim 10 wherein the composition exhibits a C_{max} of about 180 to about 280 micrograms/liter and an AUC (0-24) of about 2280 to about 3560 microgram · hour/liter.

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12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a compound having the formula



and pharmaceutically-acceptable salts and solvates thereof, and

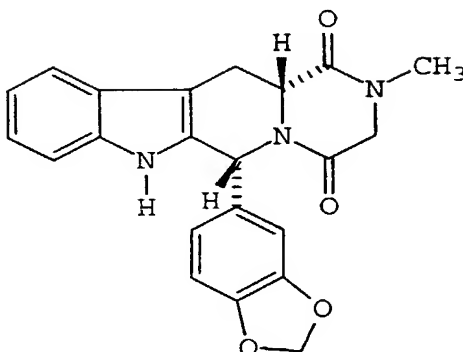
(b) one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers, diluents, or excipients,

wherein the composition exhibits a C_{max} of about 180 to about 280 micrograms/liter and an AUC (0-24) of about 2280 to about 3560 micrograms · hour/liter, measured using a 10 milligram dose of the compound.

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13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a free drug form of a compound having the formula



and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than about 10 microns, and

(b) one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers, diluents, or excipients, and bioequivalent compositions thereof.

14. A method of manufacturing the free drug particulate form of claim 1 comprising:

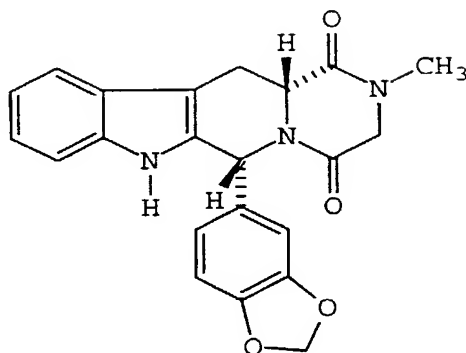
(a) providing a solid, free form of the compound, and

(b) comminuting the solid free form of the compound to provide particles of the compound wherein at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than about 40 microns.

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt or solvate thereof, with one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient, wherein the particles of the compound have a $d_{90}=40$ or less.

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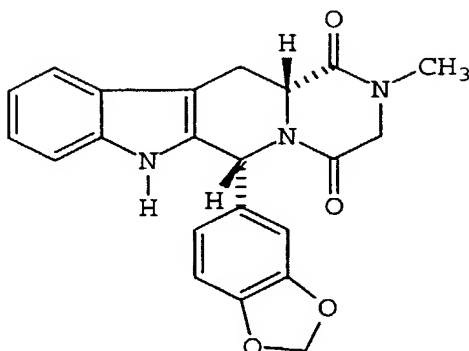
17. Use of particles of a free form of a compound having a formula



wherein at least 90% of the particles have a particle size of less than about 40 microns, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of male erectile dysfunction or female sexual arousal disorder.

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18. Use of particles of a free form of a compound having a formula



which exhibits a C_{\max} of about 180 to about 280 micrograms/liter and an AUC (0-24) of about 2280 to about 3560 micrograms·hour/liter, measured using an 10 milligram dose of the compound, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of male erectile dysfunction or female arousal disorder.

19. The invention as herein above described.

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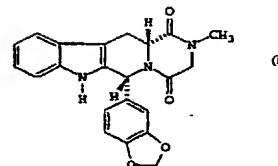
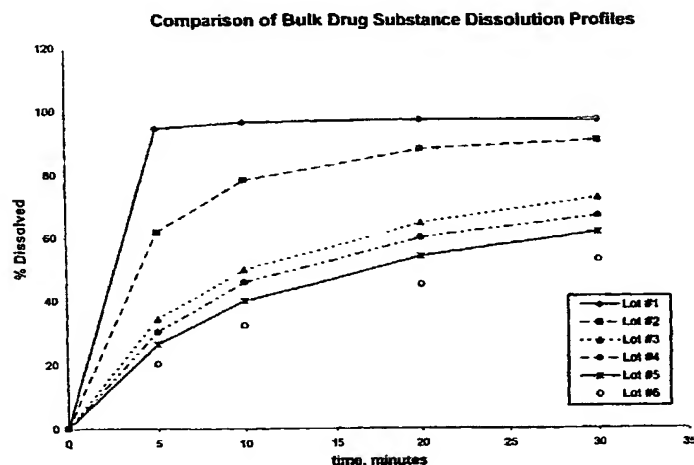
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(54) Title: BETA-CARBOLINE DRUG PRODUCTS

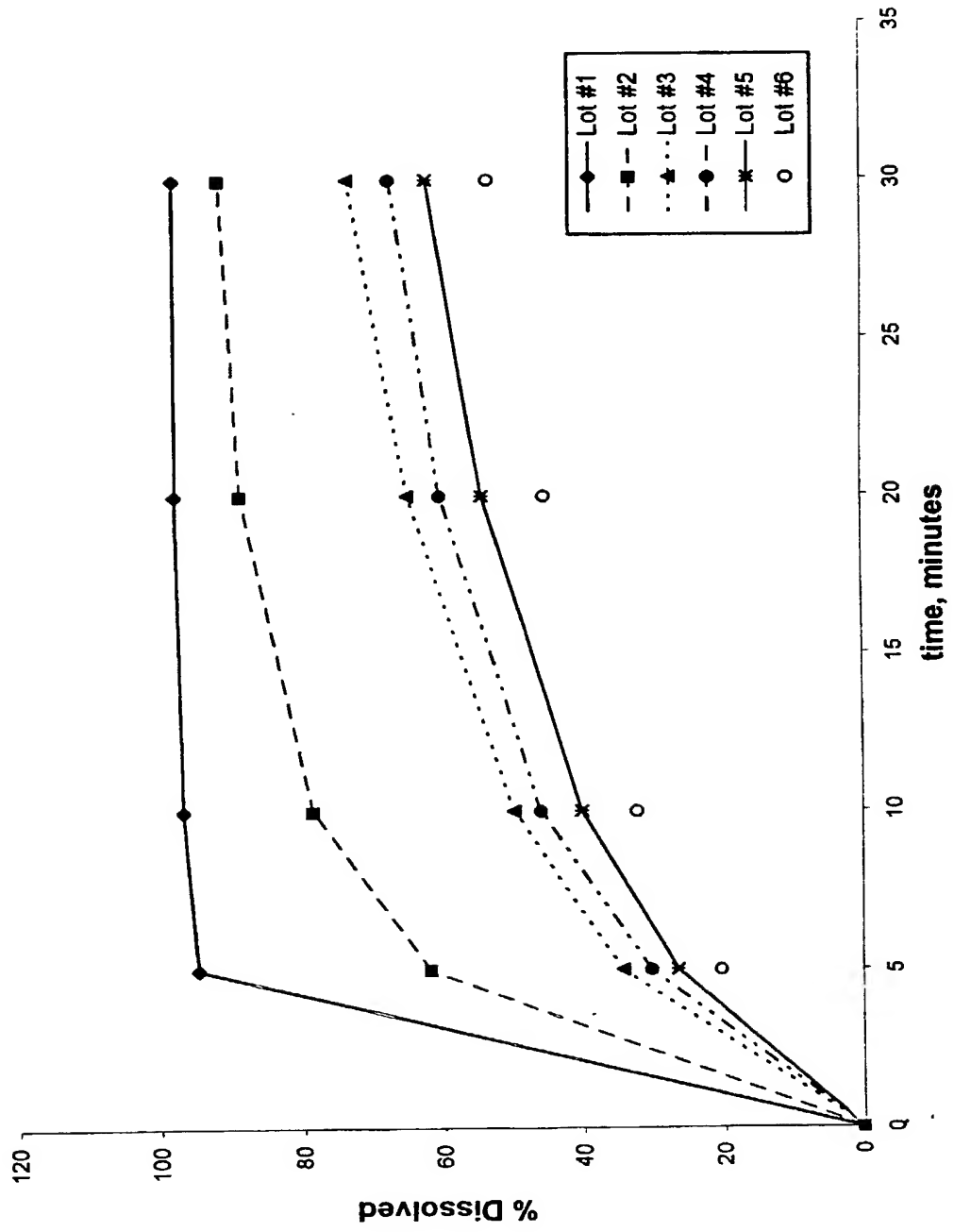


(57) Abstract: A compound of structural formula (I), and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof, wherein the com-
pound is in free drug particulate form, is disclosed.

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Figure 1
Comparison of Bulk Drug Substance Dissolution Profiles



DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "**β-CARBOLINE DRUG PRODUCTS**," the specification of which (check one): ☐ is attached hereto; ☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable); ☒ was filed as PCT International Application No. PCT/US00/20981 on August 1, 2000, and was amended under Article 19 on _____ (if applicable). I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PCT/US00/20981	PCT	01/08/00	Priority Claimed
(Application Serial Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(Application Serial Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

60/147,048	01/08/99
(Application Serial Number)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)
_____	_____
(Application Serial Number)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

_____	_____	_____
(Application Serial Number)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	(Status-Patented, Pending or Abandoned)
_____	_____	_____
(Application Serial Number)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	(Status-Patented, Pending or Abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I hereby appoint as my attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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